

For Immediate Release:

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**Monroe County District Attorney's Office a State Leader in Recovering
Stolen Unemployment Insurance Funds**

Restitution Rate Since January Second Highest In New York State

In the first nine months of 2011, the Monroe County District Attorney's Office successfully prosecuted those charged with unemployment insurance fraud and obtained orders requiring payments of \$126,868. Only New York County, home to Manhattan, brought in more in restitution, and the difference between the two counties was less than a \$1000.

Prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office work closely with investigators from the Department of Labor, who have a number of ways to track down those who lie and say they are unemployed, but have an earned income. State Police are notified and make the arrests. The defendants can be charged with numerous felonies, including Grand Larceny, and can face jail time. Whether the defendant is convicted by a jury or pleads guilty, restitution is ordered upon conviction.

Assistant District Attorney Mark Monaghan is the Chief of the Economic Crime Bureau. He says, "Especially now, when so many New Yorkers are out of work, unemployment insurance must go to those who really need it. "

Paul Turner is the Senior Investigator in Rochester for the Department of Labor. He says in the last three years, convictions for unemployment insurance fraud by the Monroe County District Attorney's Office have led to the recovery of \$345, 327 in stolen funds.

Turner adds this warning, "Bottom line, if you commit unemployment insurance fraud, we will catch you."

The New York State Department of Labor Fraud Hotline is 888-598-2077.

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